

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01
IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-13 /084 W
-----099217 081213Z /40

R 080450Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8299
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1020

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: ECON EAGR EAID VM TH CH LA WFP
SUBJECT: SRV FOOD AID TO LPDR

REF: A VIENTIANE 0892, B BANGKOK 12604, C ROME 7594,
D VIENTIANE 1019

SUMMARY: THE SRV HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL GIVE
COMMODITY AID TO THE LAO CONSISTING OF CANNED MILK,
SUGAR, AND OTHER CANNED GOODS AT A TIME WHEN THE SRV:
(A) IS REPORTEDLY SUFFERING FROM FOOD SHORTAGES,
NOTABLY RICE AND MILK; (B) HAS REPORTEDLY ASKED THE
LAO TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEEDING SRV TROOPS IN
SOUTHERN LAOS; AND (C) HAS REPORTEDLY DEMANDED THAT
THE LAO REPAY WAR DEBTS WITH RICE.

1. LAO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION DAILY BULLETIN
REPORTED JUNE 26 THAT THE SRV WILL GIVE LAOS CANNED
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MILK, OTHER CANNED FOODS, AND SUGAR IN THE NEAR
FUTURE.

2. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE WHO MADE A TRIP
TO VIETNAM FROM JUNE 4 TO JUNE 21 TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE
SRV IS NOT PRODUCING CANNED MILK BECAUSE IT LACKS
IMPORTED INGREDIENTS SUCH AS POWDERED MILK AND BUTTER

FAT. HE SAID THE SRV HAS BOUGHT CANNED MILK AND MANY OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS FROM COMMUNIST NATIONS FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE. REF A REPORTED THAT THE WFP WAS INTERESTED IN DONATING TO THE SRV POWDERED MILK TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE SRV'S FOOD AND PROTEIN SHORTAGE.

3. A RELIABLE WESTERN SOURCE IN VIENTIANE TOLD EMBOFF THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THE SRV ASKED THE LAO TO FEED THE VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THE SRV HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE ITS OWN PROVISIONS FOR THE TROOPS BUT IS NOW SUFFERING SEVERE RICE SHORTAGES (REF B, C).

4. A THAI DIPLOMAT TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 21 THAT CANNED FOOD GOODS GIVEN TO THE LPDR BY THE PRC AS COMMODITY AID WAS BEING USED BY THE VIETNAMESE. HE SAID THE PRC WAS NOT AT ALL HAPPY WITH THIS USE OF ITS AID.

5. A FRENCH DIPLOMAT, WHO SAID HIS SOURCE WAS VERY RELIABLE, TOLD EMBOFF THAT LAO RICE AND WOOD WERE BEING TRANSPORTED ALONG ROUTE NINE TO THE SRV AS RE-PAYMENT FOR THE WAR DEBT THE LAO OWE THE VIETNAMESE.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE SRV IS SUFFERING FROM A FOOD SHORTEAGE, SO ALSO ARE THE LAO, AS REPORTED REF D. LAOS HAS NEED OF ITS OWN FOOD PRODUCE AND WHAT IT RECEIVES AS COMMODITY AID. THIS DOES NOT SEEM, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, TO DETER THE SRV FROM EXTRACTING FROM THE LAO SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF FOOD COMMODITIES. THE ANNOUNCED SRV FOOD AID TO THE LPDR, WHICH IT CAN ILL AFFORD, IS UNLIKELY TO BE IN LARGE QUANTITIES AND MAY REPRESENT ONLY A PROPAGANDA GESTURE. CORCORAN

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770775/aaaacnkw.tel
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1914937
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SRV FOOD AID TO LPDR
TAGS: ECON, EAGR, EAID, VM, TH, CH, LA, WFP, LPDR
To: STATE
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